श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी स्वयं उत्तर प्रदेश के जनप्रतिनिधि हैं और उत्तर प्रदेश में कानून और व्यवस्था की स्थिति बद-से-बदतर होती जा रही है। आए दिन वहां लूट, हत्या और डकैती के प्रकरण हो रहे हैं। इसलिए आवश्यक है कि उत्तर प्रदेश के मामले में कानून और व्यवस्था को बनाए रखने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री जी इस बारे में अपना मंतव्य दें।

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, मैं प्रधानमंत्री जी के संज्ञान में यह बात लाना चाहता हूं कि सबसे गंभीर बात यह है कि किसान लोग जब स्कूल से थाने की तरफ गए तो पुलिस पहले से पेड़ पर बैठी हुई थी और उन्होंने वहां से गोलियां दाग दीं। यह तो जलियांवाला बाग में भी नहीं हुआ, अंग्रेजों के ज़माने में भी नहीं हुआ। पेड़ पर बैठकर गोलियां दाग देना, यह अखबार कह रहा है, सब लोग बोल रहे हैं। यह हैरत की बात है कि ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है ?

सभापति महोदय, यह बात सच है कि जब से प्रधानमंत्री जी ने उस इलाके के एक नेता को अपनी कैबिनेट का मंत्री बनाया है, तब से वहां की पुलिस का दिमाग बिगड़ा है और जो भी आदमी सरकार के खिलाफ अपनी मांग रखता है, उस पर हथियार चलने लगते हैं। लेकिन पेड़ पर बैठकर पुलिस गोली चलाए या छत पर छुपकर गोली चलाए, यह तो पहली मर्तबा हुआ है, यह तो सन् 1942 में भी नहीं हुआ था, यह तो जलियांवाला बाग में भी नहीं हुआ था। मुझे मालूम नहीं कि प्रधानमंत्री जी के संज्ञान में यह बात है या नहीं। वहां महिलाओं पर भी गोलियां चल रही हैं, यह बहुत ही दुःख की बात है।

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी) : सभापति जी, बागपत में जो कुछ हुआ है वह एक गम्भीर घटना है। किन परिस्थितियों में गोली चली, इसकी गहराई से छानबीन करनी होगी। किसानों पर गोली चलना यह अपने में एक चिन्ता का विषय है। प्रदेश सरकार से सारी जानकारी मांगी गई है। सदन के सामने जानकारी प्रस्तुत की जायेगी और सदन उस पर चाहे तो चर्चा हो सकती है। लेकिन हमें पूरे तथ्य इकट्ठे करने के लिए थोड़ा समय चाहिए।

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Working Group on SSI

*441. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Working Group to formulate approach on small scale industries has been formed;

(b) what are its terms of reference; and

(c) by when the Working Group is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Rural Industries has not set up such a Working Group.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise, in view of the above.

SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, dumping of consumer goods such as dry batteries, sports shoes, toys, etc., is increasing alarmingly. The threats to domestic units and products are being addressed through anti-dumping action, imposition of countervailing duties and safeguard measures under the relevant WTO agreements. An Inter-Ministerial Group, under the Chairmanship of the Commerce Secretary, has been constituted to assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and suggest suitable corrective measures. This piece of information was given in this House in reply to theUnstarred Question No. 2232. What are the recommendations and the steps taken thereon?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, the question was on the setting up of a Working Group to formulate an approach on the small-scale industries. This has not happened in this Ministry. I know what the Member is referring to. He is referring to an Inter-Ministerial Work Group which has been set up in the Ministry of Commerce to monitor the position of imports. Three hundred items have been identified to be watched for import surges, after the removal of QRs. Out of these, sixty seven items are belonging to the SSIs. Regarding these 300 (items, the two-month data shows that there was a growth of -11% Regarding the 67 SSI items, the provisional data of imports shows a growth of 5.59% during 2000-2001, while the exports grew at the rate of 26.39%.

SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Sir, my second supplementary is that after the announcement of the policy package to strengthen the small-scale sector on 30th August, 2000, which includes easier access to credit availability of collateral free composite loans, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure, out of the 55.36 lakh manufacturing units, more than 3 lakh units are reported to be sick. The loss of employment because of the sickness and closure is increasing enormously. As a result of globalisation, many commodities are imported to this country, which has made the continuance of these industries unviable. What are the steps the Government intends to take to check the ill-effects of recession as well as import liberalisation?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I would not put these two together. I would not say the sickness in industry is because of globalisation. But I would say here that the information on sickness is not maintained centrally, neither State-wise. The information comes to us from the RBI and it is true that in the last year the figure of sickness was 3,04,000. Apart from the composite package, we have taken other measures to deal with the sickness. The State-level Institutional Committees have been set up for timely identification and rehabilitation of the potentially viable sick industries. Special Rehabilitation Cells in banks and other State financial institutions have been set up and elaborate guidelines have been issued by the RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to eligible units. A one-time settlement formula, the Samadhan Scheme, has been announced by the RBI on 27th July, 2000 for the settlement of dues. There is a Delayed Payment Act which provides for penal interest on delayed payments to small units. This has also been helpful in reducing some sickness due to delayed payments. Finally, as per our comprehensive policy package, we have set up a Committee to draw up revised guidelines for the rehabilitation of the currently sick but potentially viable SSI units. The RBI has already received the report of the Committee. The RBI is drawing up fresh guidelines. We are waiting for intimation from the RBI. I am sure it will help us in the early detection of sick units and timely revival of sick industries.

लाला लाजपत राय : सभापति महोदय, यह बात सबको मालूम है कि इंडस्ट्रीज की हालत बहुत खराब है। बहुत सी यूनिट्स सिक हैं और बहुत सी बंद हो चुकी हैं। यह अच्छी बात है कि उसके लिए एक वर्किंग ग्रुप बनाया गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि यह वर्किंग ग्रुप क्या लोगों को केवल सुझाव ही देगा या उन्हें इनवॉल्व भी करेगा और उनकी जो तकलीफें है, उनका इलाज बताएगा ? क्या मंत्री महोदया इस पर प्रकाश डालेंगी?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, this is a myth that seems to be perpetuated time and again that the small-scale industries are in their death throes. It is not true because this can be proved by the figures which have been collected over the last four years. If we look at these figures, in 1997-98 the industrial sector growth rate was at 6.7 per cent, while that of the SSI sector was at 8.43 per cent. In 1998-99, in the case of small-scale sector, it was 7.71 per cent and in the case of industrial sector, it was 4.1 per cent. Again in 1999-2000, in the case of industrial sector, it was 6.5 per cent; whereas in the case of SSI sector it was 8.16 per cent. Now in the year 2000-01—we have provisional figures—in the case of industrial sector, it is 4.9 per cent and in the case of SSI sector, it has grown at the rate of 8.09 per cent. Sir, the SSI associations have also been invited

to participate in whatever discussions and consultations we have had. I would not say that the small-scale sector is in a very bad shape. Yes, after liberalisation and globalisation, there is going to be a very difficult task ahead of the small-scale industries because they will have to face more competition. But we are looking towards a larger infusion of capital and technology and so also the opportunity to expand and reap the benefits of economies of scale which would more than compensate for these disadvantages. The small-scale industries will have to improve their quality and competitiveness in order to survive. We have taken measures to provide them any kind of support in case any pressure comes upon the small-scale sector. I don't think there is any need to worry on this count. The Government is alive to the problems of the small-scale sector. The Government will take all appropriate measures to give them full support.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, while responding to the first supplementary the hon. Minister informed the House, if I have heard her correctly, that out of more than 300 items which have been affected as a result of the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, 67 SSI items registered a positive growth, while 300 other items registered a negative growth. The export growth rate was 26 per cent. No doubt, It is encouraging. But we shall also have to keep in view that the contribution of SSI has always been substantial so far as exports are concerned, so far as employment generation is concerned and so far as meeting the domestic requirements is concerned. Keeping these things in view, I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much time the RBI will take to come out with the revised guideliens on which the RBI is working on the basis of the recommendations of the Committee which was set up and the report of which has already been received by the RBI, which is being processed, for improving the condition of potentially viable but currently sick SSI units. What is the time limit?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. But, I think, across the board, the health of the SSI is of great concern for all of us. As far as we are concerned, we have sent this information to the RBI. We are told that very shortly—I am not able to indicate the exact time or date, but it should not be too far—perhaps, by the end of next month we will have an intimation on the revised guidelines.

श्री मोहम्मद आज़म खान: चेयरमैन साहब, अभी मंत्री जी ने दो शब्द इस्तेमाल किए हैं, एक गुणवत्ता और दूसरा उत्पादकता। स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज का जिक्र पहले भी यहां कई बार हुआ है। दिल्ली के पास नोएडा है और अब ग्रेटर नोएडा भी बन रहा है। हमें यह जानकारी लेनी चाहिए कि जितनी स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज वहां पिछले दस वर्षों में थी, उनके बन्द होने के क्या कारण हैं, नम्बर एक बिजली का

न मिलना। हम मुकाबला करेंगे बाहर के सामान से, चाइना ओर जापान के सामान से और हम उम्मीद रखेंगे अपने उन कारखानों से जिन्हें 24 घंटे में 20 घंटे भी बिजली नहीं मिलती है। जो हमारे मसाले बनाने के कारखाने हैं, अचार बनाने के हैं, जूते बनाने के हैं उनके सामान पर यह मुहर लग जाती है कि यह सामान चैक कर लिया गया और यह सही है। जब यह सामान विदेश जाता है तो वहां जाने के बाद रिजेक्ट होकर वापस आ जाता है। जो रॉ-मैटीरियल उन्हें बाहर बाजार में मिले या जो सरकार से कारखानों को मिलता है उसकी गुणवत्ता का सरकार के पास क्या उपाय है? जो उनका तंत्र है, जो जांच करने वाला है, जो चैक करने वाला है, जो मुहर लगाकर देश और विदेश में सामान बेचने वाला है अगर वही हमारे हाथ-पैर गले-सड़े हैं तो हम गुणवत्ता की जिम्मेवारी कैसे ले सकते हैं। दूसरे क्या हम उन देशों के कारखानों से जहां चौबीसों घंटे बिजली मिलती है और यहां पर कहने के बाद भी बिजली नहीं मिलती तो क्या हम इन हालत में उन देशों के बने सामान की गुणवत्ता ओर उत्पादकता का मुकाबला कर सकते हैं? इसके लिए आपके पास क्या उपाय है?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, the hon. Member wanted to know about the kind of closure that has taken place in NOIDA. As I said, that is a State subject and I would not be able to give you a figure on that right away. But, if the hon. member wishes to know, we will try to collect the figures, and let him have a look at it. As far as infrastructure is concerned, I definitely agree with him. Yes, we have a problem because in most of our competitive developing countries, infrastructure is more or less given. We do have problms with those, but despite that, we have tried to strengthen the SSI sector by coming out with a whole lot of policy measures among which the most important has been the credit delivery system. We look forward to be able to do a good job with those, and also to be able to be supportive at the technology level. We have some schemes which take care of the quality levels. There is an ISO 9000 Scheme. We also help the associations to improve this by giving them up to Rs. 75,000, 75 per cent of their expenses so that the scheme can be taken up. More and more people have joined them. We hope to be able to make this a popular one.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the scenario of the Small Scale Industry is quite alarming. It is not as the Minister has tried to point out. Sir, in fact, there is a reverse migration of employment from the small scale industries to agriculture now. This is a fact. This is a naked truth. As far as sickness of the SSI sector is concerned, it has got its own inherent weakness because of lack of raw material, lack of sales opportunities and some indifferent attitude of the financial institutions. Sir, the financial institutions are simply acting as money lenders. They do not care about the development of the

industry. All these are the reasons why these industries have become sick. In addition to that, because of the liberalisation, our small-scale industry is not having the level-playing field. I want to know whether the Government is thinking in terms of giving protection to the small-scale industry till technological upgradation is achieved by the small-scale industry in the country. That is the need of the hour.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I have already answered this question, earlier, in full. But, if you wish, I will repeat that. Yes, we are going to have some problems because of the new regulations. But we believe that the Small Scale Industry is resilient, vibrant and certainly up to facing those callenges. As far as the Government is concerned, we are doing our very best to be able to provide the support measures. We have also come up with a lot of measures, like the Excise Exemption Scheme, which we have raised from Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore.

This has been very supportive, as also the two schemes which I have just mentioned, of credit and technology upgradation, and there is a whole lot of schemes which I will be happy to mention. But I have sent a copy of those schemes to every Member of Parliament. I would be happy to send those once again to you. if you look at that, you will see that there is a support. I will, once again, underline the fact that there is a huge myth that is being sought to be perpetuated about the health of the small-scale industry. But I have just quoted the figures to show to you that despite the slowdown in the industrial growth, the growth in the small-scale sector has always been up, now by 2-3%.

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, the hon. Minister, in her reply, has stated that since it is a State subject, she can't mention the number of sick units in the small-scale industry. But in reply to Question No. 448, the same Minister has been kind enough to give the details of the sick units all over the country. The details contain the share of each State. In Delhi, there are 3,309 units which are sick. But in reply to this question, she is saying that it is a State subject and she can't reply. In the first place, I would like to have a clarification on this.

Secondly, it is quite evident from the reports—whatever reports we receive, including the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan, where also it has been indicated—that there is a sharp decline in the manufacturing sector of our country. I am sure, the hon. Minister would be kind enough to accept that the small-scale industry is primarily engaged in manufacturing activity, and there is a sharp decline in the manufacturing

sector. The small-scale sector is also getting a serious beating. The country is seriously concerned about it. Even though the Minister has termed it as a myth. I don't understand what does she mean by that word. It is a very simple point. There are 3,04,235 sick units in the country, this is as per the report submitted by the Ministry itself in reply to Question No. 448 of today only. There she has mentioned the State-wise figures and the number mentioned is 3,04,235.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, at what point should we be concerned? I know it for certain--it has also been mentioned in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five-Year Plan—that there is a decline of not less than 2%, so far as employment is concerned. I once again repeat that the small-scale sector employs a vast number of people in this country. Hon. Member, Shri Ramachandraiah, is right in saying that people are getting out of the small-scale industry becasue of its sickness and they are once again taking up the agricultural activities. This is a very serious situation. Would the hon. Minister be pleased to accept that it is not a myth, but it is a reality? This reality has to be addressed with all seriousness. In that case, how is she going to address this, not just through the conventional methods? Thank you for the opportunity.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, at the outset, I have said that we share the concern of the hon. Members to shore up the SSI sector. The Government is making every effort to do so, through various support measures which I have just mentioned. The figures the hon. Member has just now mentioned are not kept by us at the Central-level. However, the figures that he was talking of just now, are sent to us by the RBI. The RBI compiles them and it is sent to us. I have a list, and if you wish to have a look at it, you are welcome. But we don't keep any of these centrally. That is the answer to the first question.

As far as the health of the SSI units is concerned, I would just go back to the employment figures. The employment figure in 1993-94 was 139 lakhs; and they have steadily increased over the last six years. Today, it stands at 186 lakhs. These figures prove the fact that that migration has not taken place and that the small-scale sector is the second largest employer, after agriculture.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, the hon. Minister said that the growth of the small-scale sector is 8%. It has always been more than the medium or the large-scale sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of small-scale units closed, year-wise, during the last three years.

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, this question was actually on the approach. I am afraid I do not have any of those figures just now. As I have mentioned, we have information on sick units which has come from the RBI. We do not maintain any information on the closed units. Therefore, I would not be able to give you the figures on that.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: She has not answered my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She does not have the figures.

श्री दयानन्द सहाय: सभापति जी, यह प्रश्न है 441 नम्बर का और सप्लीमेंटरी आ रहा है 448 नम्बर प्रश्न का और जवाब भी 448 का आ रहा है। इसलिये यह व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। मंत्री जी ने पहले ही कह दिया...

MR. CHAIRMAN: There can be no question of point of order during the Question Hour....(*Interruptions*)... क्वेश्चन आवर में प्वाइंट आफआर्डर नहीं होता।

श्री दयानन्द सहाय: मैं सिर्फ सफाई चाहता था।

श्री सभापति: किससे चाहते हैं सफाई?

श्री दयानन्द सहाय: मैं पहले सप्लीमेंटरी पर आ रहा हूं। मैं अपना सप्लीमेंटरी पूछ रहा हूं। अगर मंत्री जी ने साफ-साफ कह दिया कि ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की गई है तो क्या वे ऐसी व्यवस्था भविष्य में कर सकती हैं? मंत्री जी ने यही कहा है कि कोई कमेटी नहीं बनी है, कोई इन्क्वायरी नहीं है तो क्या फेल्योर के लिए या उसको सुधारने के लिए क्या यह या इनकी मिनिस्ट्री कोई कमेटी बना सकती हैं, यह मेरा प्रश्न है?

श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे: सर, बहुत सारी कमेटीज हैं जिन्होंने अलग-अलग चीजों की स्टडी की है। You had the S.P. Gupta Study Group Report, you had the Nayak Committee Report, you had the Vijaya Raghavan Committee Report. And there are lots of people with a lot of committees that made a lot of recommendations. The last Committee on this subject was the S.P. Gupta Study Group. We have taken those recommendations that were made into very serious consideration through the GoM, We have produced a very comprehensive policy package which was given to the small scale sector last year by the Prime Minister himself on 30th of August.

श्री एस॰ एस॰ अहलुवालिया: सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहूंगा कि इन्होंने तो कह दिया कि कोई वर्किंग ग्रुप नहीं बनाया गया है। पर स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री, जो खासकर स्टेट फाइनेंशियल कारपोरेशन और दूसरे फाइनेंशियल इंस्टीट्यूशंस के माध्यम से कर्जा लेती है उसमें एक पर्टिक्युलर सेक्शन है, सेक्शन 29, जिसके तहत वैसे तो बड़े कारखाने या बड़े

व्यापारी जो बैंकों से कर्जा लेते हैं यह सेक्शन उन पर अप्लीकेबल नहीं होता और नान-परफार्मेंस एसेट के नाम पर अभी आरबीआई ने गाइड-लाइंस भी दी हैं, उनको रीहेबिलिटेट करने के लिए उनको अपार्च्युनिटी दी जा रही है कि वे कैसे वन टाइम सेटेलमेंट कर सकें। स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री को डेवलपमेंट कमिश्नर, स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज, जो आपके अंडर में है, वह पूरी इंडिया में देखता है। क्या उन्होंने ऐसा कोई प्रावधान बनाने की कोशिश की है कि जो यह तीन लाख चार हजार के करीब सिक इंडस्ट्री पड़ी हुई है, स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्री की, इनको रिवाइव करने के लिए क्या इस सेक्शन को कैंसिल किया जाएगा और उनको भी वही फेसिलिटीज दी जायेगी जो एन टी सी को सेटल करने के लिए रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया ने जो प्रावधान रखे हैं क्या वैसे ही प्रावधान रखने की कोशिश होगी?

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Sir, I have mentioned just now that we are very concerned about this. A committee was formed by the RBI itself to look into those guidelines. They are thinking over it and will be quickly revising those guidelines. We are waiting for that information. This information should come to us within a month and we will take necessary steps after that.

Sino-Indian cultural ties

*442. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether China, in an apparent attempt to improve Sino-Indian cultural ties, has invited first ever head of an Indian religious group to visit that country; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to reciprocate the gesture?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Government is aware that the Sankaracharya of Kanchi has been invited to visit China by a non-governmental organisation—the Chinese Association for International Friendly Contact (CAIFC) in October 2001.

(b) Does not arise.

PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Sir, as you know, I usually put questions on women, education and human rights. But a piece of news intrigued me. Why should Sankaracharya be invited to visit China, a country that is run by a political party which has no religion? Sir, in politics what is obvious...(*Interruptions*)... I am not opposing. ...(*Interruptions*)...

Sir, my supplementary is this. In politics, what is obvious is not always real. Often, there is not-so obvious motive. There had been cultural ties